



Service Center

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Fresno County FSA Office

4625 W Jennifer Street
Suite 109
Fresno, CA 93722
559-276-7494 (phone)
559-276-1791 (fax)

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Loan Manager

Tom Roberts, FLM
Farm Loan Staff
Phoua Yang

Farm Program Staff

Mildred Jones,
Bee Payne
Christy Villas
Wanda Medina
Chris San Nicolas
Robert Martinez
Nangpay Vang
Annie Lee
Darci Cullers
Sean Gallaher
Desiree Houston, County
Operations Trainee
Mike Marsh, Intern
Kevin Costa, Intern

County Committee

Jean Errotabere, Chair
Carl Buxman, Vice Chair
Keith Freitas, member

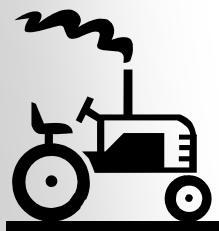
Committee Advisors

Kuldip "Cal" Kaleka
Will Scott Jr.
Challee Xiong

COUNTY COMMITTEE
MEETS ON THE SECOND
THURSDAY OF EACH
MONTH

Executive Director

Russ L. Friend



Farm Service Agency

FSA UPDATES

Oct./Nov.
2007

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM SIGNUP

BEGINS

The Fresno County Farm Service Agency office is accepting applications for the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP). CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005 and 2006 and for 2007 crops if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP

The quality loss must be at least 25 percent of the value that all affected production of the crop would have had if the crop had not suffered a quality loss. Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits.

**Call the FSA Office to
schedule an appointment.
(559) 276-7494 Ext. # 2**

LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAM SIGNUP

BEGINS

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)
LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007. **For Fresno County, livestock producers who pasture on native grass are eligible for crop year 2007.** The following are among the types of livestock that will be eligible for LCP: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine or deer. Fresno County livestock producers must provide current land leases and land ownership records along with the inventory of livestock on hand as of January 6, 2007. Producers should call the Fresno FSA office for an appointment.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, that resulted from natural disasters, including losses due to blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into 2007. Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared secretarial disaster areas or counties declared presidential disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, are eligible. Producers incurring eligible livestock losses in more than one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 calendar years must choose only one year for which they want to receive benefits. Fresno County received disaster declarations for the extreme heat during July, 2006. Livestock producers must provide proof of livestock inventory and proof of livestock loss. Such proof may be veterinary records, rendering plant receipts, etc.

**Call the FSA Office to
schedule an appointment.
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FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Ballots will be mailed to eligible producers beginning November 2, 2007. Returned Ballots must be post-marked or received by the Fresno FSA office by December 3, 2007. Eligible voters who do not receive a ballot by mail may vote at the Fresno FSA office prior to close of business on December 3, 2007, during regular business hours.

This election is for Local Administrative Area 2 which includes producers in Fresno County living west of Highway 99 and east of the Fresno Slough. The following farmers are seeking election. Vote for one candidate only.



Kuldip "Cal" Kaleka has been farming for 33 years, growing tree fruit and raisins. He currently serves on the Fresno FSA County Committee as an advisor, is a member of the Kerman Rotary Club and an appointed member of the Citizens Oversight Committee for Measure C



Richard Carstens has been farming for 54 years growing walnuts and raisins. He currently serves on the regional ground water committee for the Fresno Irrigation District.



Will Scott Jr. has been farming for 34 years growing vegetable row crops. He currently serves on the Fresno FSA County Committee as an advisor, is the President of the African American Farmers of California and serves on the board of the West Oakland Farmers Market.



CCC WILL REPORT COTTON LOAN GAINS ON IRS FORM 1040-G

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) will report market loan gains associated with CCC marketing assistance cotton loan redemptions that resulted from cash redemptions and commodity certificate exchanges, beginning with gains obtained during calendar year 2007. CCC will also report any storage credits applied to upland cotton loan redemptions, beginning with any credits provided on or after January 1, 2008. Market gains and storage credits will both be reported on IRS form 1099-G.

AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 became effective on February 2, 1979.

It requires any foreign person who:

- acquires or transfers any interest other than a security interest in agricultural land to submit a completed FSA-153 to the Secretary of Agriculture not later than 90 calendar days after the date of acquisition or transfer, or
- held any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land on February 1, 1979, to have submitted a report to the Secretary not later than August 1, 1979.

The information required by the Secretary should be reported on the enclosed FSA-153. Additional copies of this form, which you are encouraged to give to clients who are foreign persons owning, acquiring, or transferring agricultural land in the United States or its territories or possessions, may be obtained from this office. Return the completed FSA-153 to this office.

Any foreign person who holds, acquires, or transfers any interest in agricultural land, who the Secretary of Agriculture determines did not submit FSA-153, or who knowingly submitted a report that was incomplete, misleading, or false is subject to civil penalty of not more than 25 percent of the fair market value of the land on the date the penalty is assessed.

THE NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

NAP coverage is similar to that provided by Catastrophic Risk Protection Plan (CAT) insurance and is available for commercial crops or agricultural commodities produced for food or fiber for which CAT is not available. NAP coverage is not available for livestock. NAP kicks in when natural disasters result in a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop.

Producers who already have coverage on 2007 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crops for 2008, if the applicable service fee is paid by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage, is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops. The service fee is \$100 per crop with a \$300 maximum fee.

Producers who choose to add or delete a crop from previous year's coverage or change crop shares must file a new CCC-471, with signatures, and pay the service fee.

Producers with 2007 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits: Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, packing house packing records, cash sale records, farmer's market sales records, etc. File a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the disaster occurrence or when the loss is apparent.

Crop year 2008	Application Closing Date
Multi Planting - Green Beans	8/1/2007
All other annuals	3/1/2008
Almonds, Apples, Asparagus, Avocados, Caneberries, Cherries, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarines, Olives, Peach Pears, Persimmon, Pistachios, Plums, Pomegranate, Rye Grain, Walnuts	12/15/2007
Onions, Honey	12/1/2007
Fall planted Seed Crops	8/1/2007
Forage Crops	9/1/2007
Value Loss and Controlled Environment Crops.	9/1/2007

PREVENTING FRAUD AND WASTE

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) are partners in preventing fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office staff, RMA or the Office of the Inspector General.

FSA SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity. FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file.

Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court orders of appointment. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS AND LDP'S

Final Loan Availability Dates are as follows:

January 31	March 31	May 31
Unshorn Pelts, Wool, Mohair	Barley, Canola, Crambe, Flaxseed, Oats, Rapeseed, Wheat, Sesame Seed, Honey	Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Safflower Seed, Small Chickpeas, Soybeans and Sunflower Seed

Fresno County Farm Service Agency
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**Important information enclosed about
USDA farm programs. Please read carefully.**

Important Dates and Deadlines	
December 3, 2007	All County Committee Election Ballots must be post-marked or received by the Fresno FSA office
April 30, 2008	Fall seeded crop certification due. Please provide planting dates.
Various Dates	NAP application deadlines. See page 2 for details
NAP Crop Damage Report	No later than 15 days from date of damaging weather occurrence
Prevented Planting Claims	No later than 14 days after the crop insurance final planting date for the prevented crop.
FSA Office Closures November 12, 2007 November 22, 2007 December 25, 2007 January 1, 2008	Veteran's Day Thanksgiving Day Christmas Day New Year's Day

DIRECT DEPOSIT OF PAYMENTS IS MANDATORY

As of January 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit if you haven't yet. **For those already signed up, it is extremely important that we are notified anytime there is a change in your account number or financial institution.** If we are not notified, future payments can be delayed or lost for a period of time.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA's Target Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.